AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A system ~~(1)~~ for processing configuration data of a communication network, ~~characterized in that it includes~~comprising:

a first calculation ~~means~~module, including,

an extraction module that generates usage profiles for each of a plurality of service level agreements, and

an aggregation module that receives and aggregates said usage profiles and determines ~~(3) adapted to determine~~ a network usage predictive state from first data representative of ~~the~~ usage of resources and/or services within said network; and

a second calculation ~~means~~module, ~~(4)~~ adapted to determine a network evolution planning proposal from said usage predictive state and second data representative of a plant (Ri, ERj) of said network, ~~and~~

wherein said first calculation ~~means~~module ~~(3) are~~ is adapted to determine said usage profiles of said service level agreements ~~(7)~~ between ~~the~~ an operator of the network and customers from said first data and from said service level agreements.

2. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said first calculation ~~means (3) are~~module is adapted to determine said network usage predictive

state from complementary third data representative of user requirement prediction information, wherein said complementary third data comprises market research.

3. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said first calculation ~~means (3) are~~module is adapted to determine a service level agreement usage profile ~~(7)~~ for each service level agreement.

4. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said first calculation ~~means (3) are~~module is adapted to determine a service level agreement usage predictive profile constituting said network usage predictive state from said service level agreement usage profiles ~~(7)~~.

5. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein the said first calculation ~~means (3) are~~module is adapted to determine a service level agreement usage predictive profile ~~constituting~~ comparing said network usage predictive state from said service level agreement usage profiles ~~(7)~~; and wherein said service level agreement usage predictive profile is determined from said third data and said service level agreement usage profiles.

6. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said first data is chosen ~~in~~ from a group comprising the current usage of resources and/or services of the network and at least a portion of the record of usage of the resources and/or services of said network.

7. (currently amended): A system according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said first calculation ~~means (3) are~~module is adapted to determine said service level agreement usage profiles ~~(7)~~ by ~~means of a~~ trend evolution analysis.

8. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said third data is chosen in a group comprising ~~the~~ future types of service level agreements and ~~the~~ future evolution of service subscriptions.

9. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said second calculation ~~means (4) include~~module includes a traffic engineering ~~means~~module ~~(12)~~ adapted to determine an optimum configuration of the network from said second data describing the plant (Ri, ERj) of said network and a usage predictive state and a predictive state validation ~~means~~module ~~(11)~~ adapted i) to supply said traffic engineering ~~means (12)~~module with said predictive state delivered by said first calculation ~~means (3)~~module and ii) on receiving an optimum configuration associated with said predictive state, to determine whether said network can support said optimum configuration or not and then, ~~if~~ when it cannot, to determine ~~the~~ a network plant that is inadequate for future resource and/or service requirements, ~~liable to be disturbed~~ by ~~the~~ an evolution of the network corresponding to said predictive state.

10. (currently amended): A system according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said second calculation ~~means (4) include~~module includes a planning determination ~~means~~module ~~(13)~~ connected to a planning database ~~(14)~~ and adapted to determine said planning proposal from ~~the~~ a designation of the ~~disturbed~~ network plant that can be disturbed, and said planning data from said database.

11. (currently amended): A system according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said planning determination ~~means (13) are~~module is adapted to deliver ~~a~~ said planning proposal ~~minimizing~~ that minimizes ~~the~~ costs of network ~~evolution~~modification.

12. (currently amended): A system according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~at least some of~~ said planning data takes the form of planning rules.

13. (currently amended): A system according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said planning determination ~~means (13) are~~module is adapted, before delivering said planning proposal, to supply said traffic engineering ~~means~~ module ~~(12)~~ so that they determine a new optimum configuration corresponding to said network evolution planning proposal and said validation ~~means (11) are~~module is adapted, on receiving a new optimum configuration associated with said planning proposal, to determine ~~if~~ whether said network, as defined by said planning proposal, can support said new optimum configuration or not and then, ~~if~~ when it can, to send to said planning determination ~~means~~module ~~(13)~~ an authorization to deliver said

planning proposal and, if it cannot, to determine the network plant that is inadequate for future resource and/or service requirements ~~liable to be disturbed~~, by said planning proposal and to send to said planning determination ~~means~~ module ~~(13)~~ the designation of said disturbed plant for them to determine a new planning proposal.

14. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, further comprising ~~characterized in that it includes~~ a graphical user interface ~~(5) adapted to enable the~~ that permits an operator input a definition of ~~said~~ complementary third data representative of user requirement prediction information ~~by an operator~~ and ~~the~~ generates a display of each planning proposal, wherein said complementary third data comprises market research.

15. (currently amended): A system according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that it includes~~further comprising a graphical user interface ~~(5)~~ adapted to enable the definition of said third data by an operator and the display of each planning proposal, wherein said graphic user interface (5) is adapted to enable an operator to monitor the validation of planning proposals.

16. (currently amended): A system ~~(2)~~ for managing a communication network, ~~characterized in that it includes~~comprising a processing system ~~(1)~~ according to claim 1.

17. (currently amended): A method of processing communication network configuration data, ~~characterized in that it consists in~~comprising:

~~determining~~ i) generating usage profiles for each of a plurality of service level agreements, and receiving and aggregating said usage profiles so as to determine a network usage predictive state from first data representative of the usage of resources and/or services within said network and

ii) determining a network evolution planning proposal from said usage predictive state and second data representative of a plant (Ri, ERj) of said network, ~~and in that~~wherein said usage profiles of said service level agreements ~~(7)~~ between ~~the~~ an operator of the network and customers are determined from said first data and said service level agreements.

18. (currently amended): A method according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said network usage predictive state is determined from complementary third data representative of user requirement prediction information.

19. (currently amended): The ~~Use of a method, a processing~~ system ~~(1)~~, ~~and~~ further comprising a management system ~~(2)~~, wherein said network is ~~according to claim 1 in networks~~ chosen from at least one of ~~in a group comprising~~ Internet (IP), MPLS/GMPLS, ATM and Frame Relay networks.